Requirement and availability of Funds for Road Projects

2185. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: DR. BAPU KALDATE: SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between requirement and availability of funds for road projects?

(b) if so, the estimated gap;

(c) the mechanism by which the gap is proposed to be bridged; and

(d) whether private investment is likely to be mobilised therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Central Government is primarily responsible for developement of National Highways. For the 8th Plan, a minimum requirement of Rs. 7730 crores was projected for the development of National Highways but only a sum of Rs. 2460 crores has been allocated. This gap is partly proposed to be bridged by private sector participation in road sector.

Increase in the Population of Rogue Elephants

2186. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of rogue elephants is increasing daily in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as a result of which the lives of the people of these areas are in danger;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have imposed restriction on killing of these rogue elephants and a provision of penality of rupees twenty thousand or more has been fixed for killing them whereas a compensation of rupees five thousand to ten thousand in different States only is paid by the Government to the family of the persons killed by rogue elephants; and

(c) if the answer of parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative what measures Government are taking to protect the life and property of the people of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received any report of increase in the number of rogue elephants. For people living in the neighbourhood of forests there is always a chance of confrontation with wild elephants, which, sometimes may result in accidental deaths of human beings.

(b) No, Sir. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, empowers the State Chief Wild Life Warden to authorise killing of any wild elephant that has become dangerous to human life. The penal provision of the Act is for preventing violation of the provisions of the Act. The amount of relief provided to the dependents of victims of accidental deaths caused by wild elephants ranges between 5,000 to 20,000 per case, from State to State according to the norms of the concerned State.

(c) Does not arise. However, some of the steps taken by the government to avoid confrontation between people and elephants are:

(i) Establishment of elephant proof barriers, wherever possible, at the boundary of the forests;

(ii) Driving away of elephants by special squads the State Governments;

(iii) Capture, if required, of problemetic elephants followed by